

# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 29, 2005**

**CONTACT: MARIL E. ALSUP**  
*Public Affairs Specialist*  
(413) 253-4314 or  
[maril.alsup@ma.usda.gov](mailto:maril.alsup@ma.usda.gov)

## **Leicester Water Supply & Oxford/Rochdale Sewer Districts Host Congressman Neal and USDA Rural Development Visit**

**Leicester, MA** – Congressman Richard Neal and USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle arrived at the Leicester Water Supply District building on Pine Street today with two checks. One was made out to the Leicester Water Supply District for \$2,210,620 and another was for the Oxford/Rochdale Sewer District in the amount of \$800,000. The money was provided by USDA Rural Development, and secured through Congressman Neal's efforts in Washington, for the two districts' water and sewer system improvement projects.

"Improvements to these water and sewer systems will help improve the quality of life for many central Massachusetts residents," said Congressman Neal. "This assistance from the USDA is an investment in the future of both Leicester and Oxford. I am pleased to join Director Tuttle in making these important announcements today."

Leicester will use its \$1,720,620 loan and \$490,000 grant from USDA Rural Development to finance the installation of new sewer lines, a wastewater pump station, and for the replacement of some existing sewer lines along Route 9. The \$620,000 loan and \$180,000 Oxford/Rochdale grant will be used by the sewer district to install a gravity sewer system which will be connected to a nearby treatment plant that has the capacity to accommodate the additional flow.

"The Commissioners of the Leicester Water Supply District are extremely pleased and want to publicly thank Congressman Neal and USDA Rural Development State Director David Tuttle's tremendous efforts to acquire the financial assistance needed to help fund the Route 9 West Sewer Project," said Frank Lyon, Superintendent of the Leicester Water Supply District.

Within the Oxford/Rochdale Sewer District there are currently twenty three homes and a seventy two unit condominium complex, Laurel Heights, which utilize septic systems. Many of these systems have failed or are failing and need to be replaced. According to the local Board of Health, the majority of these systems would not pass inspection due to poor site conditions.

Leicester is in a similar situation. All of the homes and businesses within the Leicester Water Supply District have septic systems. The Leicester Board of Health has documented numerous complaints related to these systems and believes, as does Oxford, that they would not pass inspection. Fortunately, Leicester's sewer project will coincide with the Massachusetts Highway Department's reconstruction of Route 9 in the area which will save the town some money.

"USDA Rural Development understands that in order for a community to improve its economic opportunity and quality of life, basic community infrastructure is essential," said USDA Rural Development State Director,

-more-

David Tuttle. “Our involvement in Leicester and Oxford/Rochdale’s water and sewer improvement projects is an expression of our commitment to make sure that these two great communities have what they need to prosper.”

USDA Rural Development invested over \$50 million in Massachusetts in Fiscal Year 2004 to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

###